Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently amended) A method of delayed answering of calls directed to a mobile telephone, comprising:

accepting an incoming call from a calling party device;

determining a current operational mode in which the mobile telephone has been preset;

disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device associated with the mobile telephone during a preset delay period from a time the incoming call is accepted if the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled; and

transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device during the preset delay period.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to detection of a voice input, disabling transmission of the prerecorded message; and

enabling transmission of input from the voice pickup device.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option in the mobile telephone.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option when a user of the mobile telephone registers with a mobile telephone network.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the ~~operating~~ current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of one or more on-screen menus of the mobile telephone.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the ~~operating~~ current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of a physical switch associated with the mobile telephone.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
       determining an identity of the calling party device;
       comparing the identity of the calling party device to a list of calling party devices; and

       determining if delayed answering should be used to answer the call based on the comparison, wherein disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device are performed if delayed answering should be used.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode associated with an event, and further comprising:
       retrieving a schedule of events from a memory associated with the mobile telephone;
       determining if [[an]] the event in the schedule of events is scheduled for a present time; and
       determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used, wherein disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device are performed if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used includes at least one of retrieving an identifier indicating whether delayed answering is to be used and retrieving an identifier of [[an]] the current operational mode of the mobile telephone associated with the event.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used includes:
        .   performing term identification on a description of the event; and
        determining if one or more terms in the description of the event are associated with [[an]] the current operational mode associated with the event of the mobile telephone in which delayed answering is enabled.

13.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for delayed answering of calls directed to a mobile telephone, comprising:
        means for accepting an incoming call from a calling party device;
        means for determining a preset current operational mode of the mobile telephone;
        means for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device associated with the mobile telephone during a preset delay period from a time the incoming call is accepted if the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled; and
        means for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device during the preset delay period.

14.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
        means for disabling transmission of the prerecorded message in response to detection of a voice input; and
        means for enabling transmission of input from the voice pickup device.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option in the mobile telephone.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option when a user of the mobile telephone registers with a mobile telephone network.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[17]] 13, wherein the operating current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of one or more on-screen menus of the mobile telephone.

20.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[17]] 13, wherein the operating current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of a physical switch associated with the mobile telephone.

21.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
       means for determining an identity of the calling party device;
       means for comparing the identity of the calling party device to a list of calling party devices; and
       means for determining if delayed answering should be used to answer the call based on the comparison, wherein the means for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and means for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device operate if delayed answering should be used.

22.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode associated with an event, and further comprising:
       means for retrieving a schedule of events from a memory associated with the mobile telephone;
       means for determining if [[an]] the event in the schedule of events is scheduled for a present time; and

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means for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used, wherein the means for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and means for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device operate if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used.

23.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used includes at least one of means for retrieving an identifier indicating whether delayed answering is to be used and means for retrieving an identifier of [[an]] the current operational mode ~~of the mobile telephone~~ associated with the event.

24.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used includes:
        means for performing term identification on a description of the event; and
        means for determining if one or more terms in the description of the event are associated with [[an]] the current operational mode associated with the event ~~of the mobile telephone in which delayed answering is enabled~~.

25.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for delayed answering of calls directed to a mobile telephone, comprising:
        first instructions for accepting an incoming call from a calling party device;
        second instructions for determining a current operational mode in which the mobile telephone has been preset;
        ~~second~~ third instructions for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device associated with the mobile telephone during a preset delay period from a time the incoming call is accepted if the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled; and
        ~~third~~ fourth instructions for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device during the preset delay period.

26.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

fourth fifth instructions for disabling transmission of the prerecorded message in response to detection of a voice input; and

fifth sixth instructions for enabling transmission of input from the voice pickup device.

27.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option in the mobile telephone.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the preset delay period is set as an option when a user of the mobile telephone registers with a mobile . telephone network.

29.   (Canceled)

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[29]] 25, wherein the operating current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of one or more on-screen menus of the mobile telephone.

32.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[29]] 25, wherein the operating current operational mode of the mobile telephone is [[set]] preset by way of a physical switch associated with the mobile telephone.

33.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

fourth fifth instructions for determining an identity of the calling party device;

fifth sixth instructions for comparing the identity of the calling party device to a list of calling party devices; and

~~sixth~~ seventh instructions for determining if delayed answering should be used to answer the call based on the comparison, wherein the ~~second~~ third instructions for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and ~~third~~ fourth instructions for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device are executed if delayed answering should be used.

34.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the mobile telephone has been preset to a current operational mode associated with an event, and further comprising:

~~fourth~~ fifth instructions for retrieving a schedule of events from a memory associated with the mobile telephone;

~~fifth~~ sixth instructions for determining if [[an]] the event in the schedule of events is scheduled for a present time; and

~~sixth~~ seventh instructions for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used, wherein the ~~second~~ third instructions for disabling transmission of input from a voice pickup device and ~~third~~ fourth instructions for transmitting a prerecorded message to the calling party device are executed if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used.

35.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the ~~sixth~~ seventh instructions for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used include at least one of instructions for retrieving an identifier indicating whether delayed answering is to be used and instructions for retrieving an identifier of [[an]] the current operational mode ~~of the mobile telephone~~ associated with the event.

36.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the ~~sixth~~ seventh instructions for determining if the event is an event for which delayed answering is to be used include:

instructions for performing term identification on a description of the event; and

instructions for determining if one or more terms in the description of the event are associated with [[an]] the current operational mode associated with the event ~~of the mobile telephone in which delayed answering is enabled~~.

37.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the current operational mode includes one of an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls, an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls except those from identified callers, and an operational mode in which the called party has a choice of enabling the delayed answering.

38.   (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the current operational mode includes one of an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls, an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls except those from identified callers, and an operational mode in which the called party has a choice of enabling the delayed answering.

39.   (New) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the current operational mode includes one of an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls, an operational mode in which delayed answering is enabled for all accepted incoming calls except those from identified callers, and an operational mode in which the called party has a choice of enabling the delayed answering.